

Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on
March 19, 1999 10:00am AD 131 Loyola Campus

Present: Dr. D. Boisvert, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Mr. B. Boncore, Mr. R. Côté, Mr. W. Curran, Ms A. Ghadban, Dr. S.M. Graub, Mr. D. Hinton, Dr. J. Jans, Ms A. Kerby, Ms L. Lipscombe, Ms T. Ryan, Dr. F. Shaver, Ms A. Siano, Mr. H. Zarins.

Absent with Regrets: Ms J. Deri, Ms K. Hedrich, Mr. B. MacIver, Mr. R. Green, Mr. C. Dennis, Mr. J. Johnson, Mr. M. Logan, Ms C. Boujaklian, Ms L. Toscano, Mr. V. Francisco

Delegates: Ms C. Hedrich represented Ms. A. Vroom

Guests: Mr. K. Pruden

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Curran requested that the item, Webster Library Renovations, be added to the agenda under Student Life Issues. A motion to approve the agenda, as amended, was made by Dr. Graub and seconded by Ms Siano.

The Motion was carried unanimously

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Boisvert reminded Council that the annual CCSL Awards Ceremony would be held Friday, April 9th at 5:00pm in the SGW Faculty Club (H 767). He noted that although the Athletic Awards Night was also scheduled for April 9th the start-time was later in the evening, so it was possible to enjoy both celebrations! Dr. Boisvert encouraged Council members to participate in these important events for our students.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 1999

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Boncore and seconded by Ms. Kerby.

The Motion was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Status of IEAC: Dr. Boisvert drew Council's attention to the motion before them. As Mr. Côté was the presenter, Dr. Boisvert asked him to speak to the motion. Mr. Côté informed Council that during his tenure as Acting Dean of Students, the status of IEAC was discussed at Council. IEAC is the only grouping of student associations under the direct authority of the Dean of Students. However, he felt the issue had never been examined in depth by Council and as we were approaching the start of a new budget cycle (2000-2003), this was an opportune time to re-open discussion. The motion was moved by Mr. Côté and seconded by Mr. Zarins. The motion is as follows:

Whereas the Concordia Council on Student Life (CCSL) recognizes the contribution made by the International Ethnic Associations Council (IEAC) to student life at Concordia; and

Whereas the CCSL recognizes that the IEAC is a student governing body of 14 ethnic associations; and

Whereas the IEAC is the only student association under the govern of Student Services through the Dean of Students Office; and

Whereas Student Services, through the Dean of Students Office, wishes to review its relationship with the IEAC to determine the appropriateness of maintaining, in the present form, the reporting line between the IEAC and Student Services through the Dean of Students Office;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Concordia Council on Student Life direct the Dean of Students, or his/her designate, to Chair a review Committee whose mandate is to review the relationship between the IEAC and Student Services through the Dean of Students Office. The said committee should further recommend to CCSL an appropriate reporting mechanism should it feel the current alignment needs to be changed. The Review Committee should report to CCSL in the Fall of 1999. The composition of the Review Committee should be as follows:

*1 Representative from the Student Services Directorate
1 Representative from the IEAC Council
1 Student Council (CCSL) Member
The Dean of Students (or designate) as Chair*

Mr. Côté reiterated that he was in full support of the work of the IEAC. The question before Council is how the IEAC should be framed within the context of Student Services. Dr. Boisvert agreed, adding there was time to make changes in the coming year as we prepare for the new budget cycle. Mr. Hinton asked when any changes to the budget would take place. Dr. Boisvert replied any changes would be implemented for the 2000-2003 budget cycle and the discussion on budget would occur early in the year 2000. However, Dr. Boisvert felt it was important for Council to understand that financial concerns were not the main factor in this discussion. He reminded Council that IEAC was the only student association governed in this manner. Ms Ghadban asked for clarification of the Dean of Students role with IEAC. Dr. Boisvert replied that although the funding for IEAC comes from CCSL, the budget administration and approval of expenditures are controlled by the Dean of Students Office. Mr. Côté added that any issues concerning their rules, conflicts, complaints as well as the day-to-day questions or problems are handled by the Dean's office. Ms Kerby added that the timing was very appropriate as this study could take place over a period of months with no deadlines to rush the committee's findings. Dr. Graub agreed, adding this could be a positive experience. Dr. Boisvert put the motion before Council:

*10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions
The motion was carried unanimously*

Mr. Côté and Mr. Hinton both agreed to sit on the committee. Dr. Boisvert will designate a chair. The IEAC will be asked to appoint a representative. It is expected the committee will report back to CCSL at the first meeting of Fall 99.

4.2: Commercial Activities at the University:

Dr. Boisvert drew Council's attention to the documents previously distributed - The University Policy on Student-Operated Commercial Enterprises and the Policy on use

of the Mezzanine by Student Groups. Dr. Boisvert gave some background on the issue. The Mezzanine space under the jurisdiction of the Dean of Students office allocated for student displays or information tables is booked heavily during the academic year. The Dean of Students Office routinely receives a fair number of complaints concerning the general use and the "flea-market" appearance of the space. In the Fall of 98, Dr. Boisvert revised the policy concerning use of the Mezzanine on the SGW Campus. This policy has been criticized by student groups because it appears to restrict the use of the Mezzanine for commercial activities. Dr. Boisvert said this on-going debate on use of space by student groups has been a continued source of frustration for all concerned. It was his hope that this discussion would be of some assistance in order to help resolve this situation. It was noted that a number of the complaints were actually directed to the "CSU booth" on the Mezzanine Level. This booth is under the jurisdiction of the CSU and is routinely rented out for commercial activities. As well CASA has a booth on the 4th Floor of the Hall Building which is also rented out for commercial purposes. Council felt strongly that our student groups should have the opportunity to fund-raise for their various activities and concerns. The question was what is the appropriate venue for these activities. Different areas of the university were discussed as possible locations, including the "tunnel". Ms Ryan felt that students appreciate the ability to "get a bargain" at their university. She suggested that the set-up of the Mezzanine could be altered to better meet the need for student space. The general consensus was that the Mezzanine is an ideal location. However, it was felt that the furniture (chairs, tables, backdrops etc) used for events in the Mezzanine was in terrible condition and did not enhance any student displays or events. Council felt that the purchase of new furniture and backdrops appropriate for a display area would be a good investment for the future. Concern was expressed by Council that our student associations can be taken advantage of by vendors in a profit-sharing agreement. Clear guidelines on the types of commercial activities that would be considered should be determined and made available for student groups wishing to reserve space. Council felt strongly that a contract between the sponsoring group and the commercial enterprise was also necessary. Dr. Shaver felt that the costs to maintain the area as well as the furnishings could be built into the contracts. In this way the upkeep of the area would be guaranteed. Dr. Boisvert thanked Council for their input on this issue. He felt the discussion has given him helpful guidelines for the implementation of policies on student space.

5. REPORTS:

5.1 Student Success Centre: Dr. Graub introduced staff members from Counselling & Development, Ms Mary O'Malley, Ms Natasha Khattar, Mr. Marc Léger and Mr. André Gagnon. Although originally planned as a power-point presentation due to technical problems, the staff opted to present "off the cuff". It was explained that a random survey was done to ensure that the thrust of the centre was in accordance with the concerns and expectations of the students. The results were very interesting as the definition of "success" is subjective and can vary dramatically from person to person. Some of the concerns expressed were: "having a balanced life, motivation to study, no money worries, stress reduction and no personal problems". Some definitions students ascribed to "success" were: "finding a job after graduation, having career goals, achieving high grades, having a social life and having a job while in school". Through a variety of means the Centre strives to answer or assist a student in dealing with all these issues. Workshops are available that encompass personal, career and academic concerns. These workshops range from overcoming shyness to math tutorials to leadership skills. One very important view is that students don't have to wait until they have a problem to visit the centre; the idea is to

approach life proactively. For example, students often wait until graduation before considering their career options. However, the centre strongly encourages students to drop by in their first year to find about the job market and the skills needed to find a job. In order to reach as many students as possible, staff from the Career & Placement Centre will gladly visit first year introductory classes and give a seminar on these issues. The Student Success Centre believes that to be a successful student you must be proactive. Students are encouraged to visit the centre and take advantage of all the services offered. Dr. Shaver felt this message was extremely important and that Faculty should be aware of this service in order to refer students. To this end, she made a commitment to ensure the Faculty of Arts & Science are informed and aware of the importance of this Centre to our students. Dr. Boisvert thanked Counselling & Development for a most interesting and informative presentation.

During the Counselling & Development presentation, Dr. Jans asked if the student survey they conducted had been approved by the Ethics Committee. As members of Council were not clear on those procedures, it was decided that it would be beneficial to have a representative from the committee speak at CCSL as well as distribute a copy of the policy that deals with this issue.

6. Student Life Issues

6.1 Renovations to Webster Library: Due to time constraints, Mr. Curran agreed to defer this issue to the April CCSL meeting. However, he did take the opportunity to inform Council that the issue of "noise" on the 4th floor of the McConnell Library was being dealt with. During the coming months, extra security will be hired and all staff will be more vigilant in order to ensure that students can study in a quiet atmosphere. Mr. Hinton agreed that the atmosphere must be conducive to studying but he expressed concern that the "large study tables" would disappear. He felt the carrels were too small and claustrophobic. Mr. Curran assured him that not all the 4th floor tables would be removed. But at the moment, for that area, there are just too many tables and it has become problematic. Ms Ryan said she had been questioned by some students on the possibility of having a "relaxation" area in the Library with couches and coffee tables. Mr. Curran replied that the current renovations were to address the overcrowding of the 4th Floor. The 5th floor is needed to help alleviate the situation, but that acquisition will not happen for at least a couple of years. He felt the idea of a lounge was not common in other universities. However, he agreed that to impose absolute quiet is also not productive. At the April CCSL meeting, Mr. Curran will go into more detail about the Library renovations.

In light of the revitalization of Loyola project, Dr. Jans also asked if Council was aware there was a locked bulletin board on the Loyola Campus, 3rd floor Central that had advertisements for apartments, etc dating back to 1989. Dr. Boisvert said the matter would be investigated.

On behalf of Council, Dr. Boisvert congratulated Keith Pruden who was named "Quebec Coach of the Year".

Ms Hedrich announced that the Sports Hall of Fame Banquet was scheduled for April 22nd and invitations had been distributed. As the cost can be prohibitive for the students on CCSL who wish to attend, Dr. Boisvert offered to subsidize the cost for the CCSL student representatives.

7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE RECREATION & ATHLETICS BOARD

Ms Kerby reported that the Board had indeed finally met with student representatives in attendance. She took the opportunity to thank Mr. Hinton for his diligence in recruiting students for these vacancies. Ms Kerby asked if Council had any objection to a change in the timing of the appointment of the students to the Board. The Board felt that it would be advantageous if the students were appointed in the Spring and therefore the Board would have a full complement in place for the Fall semester. Council had no objection. Ms Kerby confirmed that the report on the Guidelines and Criteria for Selection and Change in Status of Varsity Sports should be available for the April or May CCSL meeting. She confirmed that the Recreation & Athletics budget was being managed within the given parameters. However she indicated that as this has been a banner year for athletic sports teams, additional money is needed. The Rector has allocated some additional funding but the costs incurred for our championship teams will be reflected in anticipated deficit. Ms Kerby felt it was important to establish a contingency fund to deal with the costs associated with championship games. Dr. Boisvert agreed, adding the University must take a more active participation in solving this problem. Ms Kerby informed Council that the Board was preparing a report for CCSL on the distribution of the income generated by the students' contribution to the capital campaign with respect to Athletic facilities. Dr. Boisvert asked if these reports could be made available for the April meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Friday, April 16th at 10:00 in H 769 (SGW Campus)

10. TERMINATION OF MEETING

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Mr. Hinton and seconded by Ms Kerby.

The motion was carried